

M I D D L E E A S T A N D S O U T H A S I A R E V I E W

15 DECEMBER 1980

American Hostages

Ahmad Azizi, director of hostage affairs in the prime minister's office, told PARS on 13 December that "the reply and the position of the United States to the conditions set by the Islamic Consultative Assembly have been basically positive" and that discussions between Iranian officials and the Algerian delegation are continuing. Azizi added that a statement will be issued when the Algerian delegation leaves Tehran. In an interview with LAIN, Azizi reiterated that the solution to the hostage crisis depends on the United States but that if it acts promptly the hostages can be released before Christmas. He also said that if the United States cannot fulfill any of the Majlis conditions fully, then the hostages "should be" released in groups.

Minister of State Behzad Nabavi, in an interview with the newspaper ISLAMIC REPUBLIC, reported by EFE, indicated that progress has been made in the negotiations and that Iran is willing to cooperate with the United States to meet the Majlis conditions but that the hostages' fate "depends solely on Washington." Algiers radio, citing the same interview, reported that Nabavi said the latest U.S. response "is clear with the exception of several details of minor importance." AFP, citing informed sources in Tehran, reported that "two technical questions" remain to be solved about the Majlis conditions for the release of the hostages but did not specify what the questions are.

In an interview with Italian television, reported by EFE, Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i said the United States "must become more active" in the negotiations if it wants to resolve the hostage issue. The news agency also cited Majlis Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani as saying that "the last reply is better for Iran and only a few points are pending in the negotiations."

In a further report, the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN cited "international diplomatic sources" as saying that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has been playing an "important role" in the negotiations after "the intervention of an American Republican personality close to President-elect Ronald Reagan." KUNA, which reviewed the newspaper article, went on to say that the Algerian delegation currently in Tehran will meet with Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Ben Yahia, who is now in Damascus, "to convey the American-Iranian agreement." It added that the hostages will first stop in the Syrian capital after their release.

Iran Domestic Affairs

Khomeyni Speech--Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni warned revolution guards leaders and officers of the army's political ideology bureau against internal enemies who "are plotting constantly" to make you rot from within and without and "undermine the people's faith in you." In a 13 December speech to the two groups, carried by Tehran radio, Khomeyni said the nation's enemies want "to instigate as much dissent in the army as they can" and to set the army and the revolution guards against each other in order to harm Islam. He underscored the need for unity among the army, revolution guards and gendarmerie in the face of these internal plots and the need to avoid claims and counterclaims that one group or the other does not support Islam or has no discipline. In a special appeal to the army officers of the former regime, Khomeyni stressed that they are not separate from the best of the nation and warned that if they again separate themselves, the people "will turn their backs on you and you will not last." "You must all be together"; "you must consider each other brothers," he concluded.

Raja'i Speech--According to Tehran radio, Prime Minister Raja'i told worshippers in Mashhad that "counterrevolutionaries" who criticize, undertake "deviationary activities" and foment conspiracies against the revolution will be defeated by the people under Islam. In his 12 December prayer sermon, the prime minister declared that Iran will not deviate from the Islamic path or ever again "sully our culture with Western manifestations."

Prison Commission--Following a decision by the Majlis to form a commission to investigate charges of torture in the country's prisons, Tehran radio reported that Ayatollah Khomeyni has chosen Mohammad Montazeri, son of Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, to represent him on the commission while the Majlis has elected Jahrom deputy 'Ali Mohammad Besharati-Jahromi to be its representative.

Khalkhali Plans--AFP, citing the Tehran TIMES, reported that Ayatollah Sadeq Khalkhali plans to run against President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr in the 1984 presidential election. Khalkhali recently resigned as head of Iran's antinarcotics unit amid charges of torture and misconduct in his operation of Tehran's prisons.

Khamene'i Sermon--In a 12 December sermon at Tehran University mosque, reported by Tehran radio's Arabic service, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i praised Iran's "revolutionary struggling people" for triumphing in the "ultimate test" imposed by the war with Iraq, but he denounced a "faction that has failed the test." Referring to "agents" who have dared to say that Iran is working in the U.S. interest, the Friday imam warned that "the enemy of the Islamic revolution is now active in the rear." Khamene'i went on to refer to "internal battles" currently raging between the "the Islamic republic and the United States" in Kordestan, and he alleged that the faction trying to carry out acts of sabotage in the name of "democracy, freedom and solidarity with the masses" is linked with "world imperialism." The revolution's enemies, he said, are exploiting every weak point in the cities and society to sow sedition and foment disputes, to the extent of plotting to disrupt the schools. "Chanting slogans about freedom" is itself a plot, he said, "because we are all free." Khamene'i's references to problems in Kordestan, cities and schools followed various earlier reports of fighting near Mahabad and political agitation in northern cities and Tehran schools.

Kordestan, Baluchestan Problems--Tehran radio reported that "people disgraced by the people's court" who used to agitate about "pseudoliberalties of the masses" have taken hostage five members of a land allocation delegation in Kordestan. The radio also said that the gendarmerie in Baluchestan have seized weapons, drugs and large quantities of ammunition, "foreign cigarettes" and other contraband goods and have arrested a number of people.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Tariq 'Aziz Statement--Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz told the Iraqi National Assembly on 13 December that Iraq will not withdraw from Iran until it is assured of its rights in the area. In his address, reported by INA, 'Aziz underscored three conditions for an end to the fighting: Iraq's right to its land and waters based on the 1975 Algiers agreement; a policy of nonintervention in each other's internal affairs and an end to Iran's policy of expansion against Iraq and the Arab nation; and the restoration of the Arab nation's national rights that were usurped by Iran, presumably, among other things, the return of the three Gulf islands claimed by the UAE. The deputy prime minister characterized Iran's position as "confused and unsteady" with Iran's political leaders issuing contradictory statements and apparently "incapable" of adopting a clear position on anything. Iraq has cooperated fully with all attempts to end the conflict, 'Aziz stressed, but Iran's inability to offer a cohesive, clear stand has hampered such efforts.

Saudi, Kuwaiti Aid Denial--In a statement to the newspaper AL-JAZIRAH, reported by SPA, Saudi Defense Minister Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz strongly denied rumors that the Soviet Union is supplying arms to Iraq through Saudi Arabia. The defense minister said Saudi Arabia has no dealings with the Soviet Union and added that Iraq has not asked for any assistance. According to KUNA, Kuwait's Minister for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Hussayn denied earlier PARS accusations that Iraq is receiving arms via Kuwaiti ports and highways.

Military Situation--According to an Iraqi General Command communique, carried by Baghdad radio, Iraqi forces repulsed an Iranian attack in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region, killing 61. The communique also said that Iraqi antiaircraft fire downed an Iranian helicopter near Susangerd. Tehran radio reported a "heavy exchange of fire" between the two sides around Abadan as well as further Iraqi shelling of Dezful. On other fronts, the radio said Iranian forces penetrated Iraqi lines in the Sumar region, inflicting losses, and

also attacked Iraqi positions in Umm ar-Rasas. Iranian artillery hit Iraqi defenses around Ahvaz, the radio added, but heavy dust storms prevented an accurate damage assessment.

Brezhnev Gulf Proposals

Reaction to Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev's proposals for the military neutralization, political nonalignment and economic sovereignty of the Persian Gulf continues to be limited.

Iran--An unattributed commentary carried by Tehran radio called on the Soviet Union to act upon its own proposals by withdrawing from Afghanistan and dismantling its military bases in the region. Calling the plan a "good and positive proposal," the commentary questioned whether the Soviet proposal is an "attractive diplomatic attempt" to de-Westernize the Gulf or is an attempt to paint the Soviet Union as the wronged party in the Middle East and thus improve its credibility there.

Saudi Arabia--The newspaper AL-JAZIRAH, in a commentary reviewed by SPA, declared that the Brezhnev proposals have produced feelings of "revulsion and disgust" in light of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and the presence of its ships armed with nuclear weapons in the Red Sea. A commentary in AL-YAWM, reported by SPA, stressed that the Soviet plan has a "colonial logic" which ignores the role of Islam in the region and the ability of the Gulf states to defend themselves.

UAE--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah 'Ali al-Nu'aymi called on the Soviet Union to first withdraw its forces from Afghanistan if it wants the Gulf states to believe its proposals are serious. In an interview reported by the newspaper EMIRATES NEWS, the minister restated his country's policy that the security of the region should be left to the Gulf countries themselves. An editorial in AL-FAJR discussed the U.S. rejection of Brezhnev's proposals and called on the United States to announce its true intentions in the region. The editorial found it hard to rationalize the U.S. concern for Arab oil and Arab sovereignty with its failure to ask Israel to withdraw from Arab lands seized in the 1967 war or its failure to support the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Afghanistan--Foreign Minister Shah Mohammad Dost told TASS that Afghanistan fully supports Brezhnev's proposals for a "peaceful political settlement" and a "full political normalization" of the situation around the country. Dost blamed "the forces of imperialism and hegemonism" for the worsening situation in the area and thanked the Soviet Union for its aid and support to the Afghan people against these outside threats.

OPEC Conference

Oil Prices--KUNA reported that Kuwaiti Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah said in an interview that the adoption of a resolution on prices at the forthcoming OPEC conference in Bali is neither inevitable nor important. The minister said oil prices will remain stable if Iraq and Iran resume oil exports and if the Western countries use their accumulated reserves, thereby restricting imports. If these aims are not achieved, however, prices will rise as a result of an oil shortage, he added.

Iraq's Oil Minister Tayih 'Abd al-Karim, in an interview with Kuwaiti television reported by INA, said Iraq favors gradual price increases linked with inflation and the devaluation of the dollar but does not support "price jumps" because they upset the world market.

QNA reported that the UAE petroleum and natural resources minister, Dr Mani' ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah, told correspondents prior to his departure for Bali that the UAE sees no need to increase prices at present in view of the current economic conditions in developing countries, but the OPEC ministerial conference will discuss the question of prices. Dr al-'Utaybah added that UAE oil production will be subject to a short-term decrease in January prior to maintenance work which will make possible an increase in production.

Iranian Stand--Tehran radio reported that before his departure for Bali, the head of the Iranian delegation, Deputy Oil Minister Hassan Sadat, said Iran's priority at the conference will be to pursue the issue of the release of captured Oil Minister Javad Tondguyan. In a related AFP report, the chairman of the Majlis Petroleum Committee, 'Ali Akbar Mo'infar, asserted that the main subject of the conference will be Iran's demand for the release of the captured minister. He added that the Iranian delegation will back a Vienna report by eight OPEC countries recommending a basic price of \$35-36 a barrel for Arabian light crude oil. Mo'infar admitted that Iran no longer exports refinery products but claimed that since rationing enough is still produced for daily needs, which are about half a million barrels of refinery products daily.

Syrian-Libyan Relations

Damascus radio reported that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will head a party and government delegation to Tripoli on 15 December for a meeting with Libyan leader Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi to complete the discussion of the "principles and formulas of unity" between Syria and Libya. Earlier the radio said Libya's secretary of the Administrative Committee for Revolutionary Information, Amin al-Bashshari, told SANA that during the next few days there will be a "strong boost" to Syrian-Libyan unity. Al-Bashshari added that Libya considers unity an "urgent necessity" to combat Zionism and U.S. imperialism and put Libyan and Syrian potentials in "the same trench."

FBIS

DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 242

15 December 1980

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

i

IRAN

Developments Concerning Hostage Negotiations	I 1
Nabavi: Progress in Negotiations	I 1
Azizi: Possible Christmas Release [LATIN]	I 1
Talks Continue	I 2
AFP: Two Questions Remain	I 2
Rafsanjani on Negotiations [EFE]	I 3
12-15 Dec Khomeyni Meetings, Speech Reported	I 4
Meeting With Spanish Ophthalmologist	I 4
Meeting With Fakuri	I 4
Meeting With Guard Commanders	I 4
Speech to Guard Leaders	I 5
Bani-Sadr Briefing	I 6
Reportage on Bani-Sadr Activities, Meetings	I 6
Karkheh Kur Inspection Tour	I 6
Return to Tehran	I 7
Receives French, Italian Envoys	I 7
Meeting With Governors General	I 7
12-15 Dec Raja'i Activities, Speeches Reported	I 7
Mashhad Tour	I 7
Speech on Sociologists	I 8
Return to Tehran	I 10
Meeting With Defense Minister	I 10
Purge Review Ordered	I 10
Meets Bani-Sadr, Inspects Housing	I 11
Khomeyni's Son Receives Algerian Ambassador	I 11
Supreme Defense Council Meets 12 Dec Under Raja'i	I 11
Khamene'i on Session	I 12
Bani-Sadr Chairs 13 Dec Defense Council Session	I 12
Majlis Elects Delegate to Prison Commission	I 12
Council of Ministers, Governors General Meet	I 13
Cabinet To Meet Monthly With Governors General	I 13
Montazeri Meets With Police Personnel, Guards	I 14
Khamene'i on Internal Opposition, Fighting	I 14
Revolution Guards Commander Reza'i Interviewed	I 16
Part II	I 18
Navy Commander on Gulf Islands, War With Iraq	I 19
Delegate to OPEC Discusses Kidnapping, Gas Export	I 20
Tondguyan's Fate To Be Stressed at OPEC Meeting	I 20
Commentary Examines Brezhnev Proposal for Gulf	I 21
Ahvaz Radio: Husayn Is Reagan's Trump Card	I 23
Iraq Cuts Telephone Links With Gulf Countries	I 24
NIOC Radio Reports Arrests, Armed Clashes in Iraq	I 24
Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique 336	I 25
Guerrilla Penetration of Enemy Front Reported	I 25
Foreign Correspondents Visit Abadan Area	I 26
Voice of Iranian Kordestan 5-11 Dec Programming	I 26

DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING HOSTAGE NEGOTIATIONS

Nabavi: Progress in Negotiations

LD133410 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 13 Dec 80

[Text] While nothing new has occurred to alter the course of the Iran-Iraq conflict, the case of the American hostages detained in Tehran was mentioned today in Tehran by Mr Nabavi, the Iranian minister of state for executive affairs. He confirmed that progress has been made in the current negotiations on the hostage issue and added that the latest U.S. message is clear with the exception of several details of minor importance. Without giving further details Mr Nabavi indicated that in its response to the U.S. message the Iranian Government suggests methods for the implementation of the conditions set by the Majlis.

According to the Lebanese paper AS-SAFIR, the United States is reported to have suggested a compromise solution to Tehran regarding the last point under dispute, that of the fortune of the former shah of Iran. The solution involves the freezing of Iranian assets in the United States and the decision of the courts on whether the assets of the former shah should be returned to Iran or not. Mr Nabavi not only categorically denied the existence of such a solution but also said that Iran will never submit its affairs to the American courts.

In fact, it seems that the American leaders will have to wait for the return of Algerian envoys from Tehran in order to be acquainted with the attitude of the Iranian authorities regarding Washington's latest message to Tehran.

Azizi: Possible Christmas Release

PA141926 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1846 GMT 14 Dec 80

[By Nassir Shirkani]

[Text] Tehran, 14 Dec (LATIN-REUTER)--A ranking Iranian official stated today that it was possible that the 52 U.S. hostages might be released for Christmas if Washington acts promptly to fulfil the demands set by Iran.

But Ahmad Azizi, director of U.S. hostages affairs in the office of the Iranian prime minister, dismissed as "speculations by a newspaper" press reports published in Lebanon and Kuwait which indicated that an agreement had been reached for the hostages to be released on Christmas Day.

Azizi reiterated in a telephone interview with this agency that the date of solution of the 12-month crisis depends on how the United States responds to the next Iranian message in the indirect negotiations initiated after the Majlis (parliament) approved four demands for the release of the hostages.

Asked if he considered it possible that the release might take place before Christmas if the United States acts promptly, he replied: "Yes."

Azizi added that the Iranian note will be drafted in a few days and will include suggestions on how Tehran's demands can be met.

He indicated that if the United States does not fulfill any one of the terms to full Iranian satisfaction, the hostages "should be" released in groups.

The Washington government has rejected a partial release of the hostages.

The Iranian demands are that the United States [words indistinct] the return of the former shah's fortune and the suppression of any legal demands against Iran.

Azizi was quoted yesterday as saying that the last U.S. response to the Iranian conditions had been "basically positive."

But it is impossible to determine the points which separate both countries [words indistinct] several North Americans said that the request to annul all legal demands and return the assets of the former shah were beyond the legal authority of the Washington government.

In view of the fact that there are no relations between Iran and the United States, the dialogue on the hostages is being conducted through the Algerian intermediaries who [words indistinct] to Washington.

Talks Continue

LD140842 Tehran PARS in English 0733 GMT 14 Dec 80

[Text] Tehran, 14 Dec (PARS NEWS AGENCY)--Mr Ahmad Azizi, director of American hostage affairs in the office of the prime minister, said that the discussion between the Iranian authorities and the Algerian mediation team is still going on. The results will be published soon after the Algerian team leaves Tehran. "The reply and the position of the United States to the conditions set by the Islamic Consultative Assembly have been basically positive, said Mr Azizi.

He indicated that the trip of four American clergymen to Iran has been realized without prior planning. If they intend to see the hostages released by them this will not be the case. These four American clergymen, one of them a Muslim, have asked to meet Prime Minister Raja'i, but their request has been denied.

The Algerian team brought with them the U.S. response to the conditions of the Majlis for the release of the hostages and arrived in Tehran 9 days ago. The team consists of the Algerian ambassador to Iran, the Algerian ambassador to the United States and the chief of the Algerian Central Bank.

AFP: Two Questions Remain

NC141807 Paris AFP in English 1757 GMT 15 Dec 80

[Text] Tehran, 14 Dec (AFP)--An Iranian parliamentary committee today studied Iranian-Algerian negotiations about the 52 American hostages, Iranian television reported. No details about the session were released.

Three Algerian diplomats are acting as intermediaries between Washington and Tehran in the issue. Ten days ago, they delivered Washington's latest response to the Iranian parliament's four conditions for freeing the captives.

Ahmad Azizi, Iranian Government spokesman, yesterday said that negotiations would continue but that Washington's latest response was "fundamentally positive."

Informed sources here have indicated that problems remaining to be resolved concern "two technical questions" about the four conditions. These are the return of the shah's wealth, U.S. guarantees of non-interference in Iranian internal affairs, the unblocking of Iranian assets frozen by the U.S. and the dropping of all American law suits against Iran.

The parliament authorized the government in early November to obtain a satisfactory U.S. response to the conditions.

Rafsanjani on Negotiations

PA131655 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1613 GMT 13 Dec 80

[Text] Tehran, 13 Dec (EFE)--The detention of the 52 U.S. hostages may come to an end in a few weeks and the rumors that they will soon return to their relatives have now become a possibility.

According to reports in this capital, the indirect negotiations between Iranian and U.S. authorities through Algeria are advancing.

The reports add that the two countries have reached agreement on certain points connected with the fate of the hostages, who have been in the hands of a group of students since 4 November 1979.

In an interview granted today on Italian television, Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i said that if the United States wants to see the hostages back home soon, it must become more active.

Asked about Iran's conditions for the release of the hostages, Raja'i answered that these have already been stated clearly. "If the United States acts rapidly and accepts our conditions, the hostages will be released," he affirmed.

Asked about the achievements and the future of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which was founded in wake of the overthrow of Shah Reza Pahlavi, Raja'i answered that "more than anything, we have paid attention to the moral and spiritual aspects. However, from the financial standpoint, we have stressed two things: the total elimination of our dependence on the superpowers and on the imperialist countries, and, secondly, the planning of a free Iran."

Ever since the Islamic Consultative Assembly, Majlis, announced the conditions for releasing the hostages on 2 November, local observers have believed that the United States has no other choice.

However, observers have expressed concern over statements from the White House that the U.S. Government is having legal problems in meeting the demands.

U.S. officials have said that their country is facing many problems in this regard and that it might be impossible for them to meet the conditions.

At first the United States refused to accept handing over the former shah's and his family's fortune, saying that it was not up to the United States to fulfill that condition.

Jimmy Carter also gave orders not to release the \$6 billion frozen in U.S. banks since last November.

The first U.S. reply--a letter delivered to the Algerians--to the Majlis demands, was regarded here as a test of the Iranian's determination to negotiate.

Iranian authorities replied that the letter was not even an answer, because it merely explained the White House's legal problems, "which have nothing to do with us, and which are not our concern."

Then the Iranians formed a special committee to study the U.S. reply and requested clarification on the U.S. position.

Ten days ago, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Warren Christopher made a brief visit to Algeria to deliver the final reply on the Iranian conditions.

Both the Iranians and Algerians remained silent, but new expectations emerged regarding the possible solution of the crisis which has lasted 403 days.

For the first time here in Iran Behzad Nabavi, director of the special commission, said that Washington's last letter was clearer than the first.

Later, Hashemi Rafsanjani, speaker of the Majlis, in his weekly press conference said that "the last reply is better for Iran and only a few points are pending in the negotiations for the release of the North Americans"

12-15 DEC KHOMEYNI MEETINGS, SPEECH REPORTED

Meetings With Spanish Ophthalmologist

LD121150 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1036 GMT 12 Dec 80

[Text] This morning Professor [name indistinct] ophthalmologist, who came to Tehran at the invitation of the foundation of the martyrs to treat those wounded and the injured during the Islamic revolution and during the war imposed on Iran by the mercenary Iraqi regime, was received by Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, accompanied by the Spanish ambassador.

Hojjat Ol-Eslam Hajj, Sheykh Mehdi (Kalibi), the supervisor of the foundation of martyrs, told our reporter in connection with this visit: Following the decision of the foundation of martyrs to treat the wounded and injured of the revolution and the war imposed on Iran by the mercenary regime of Baghdad, a number of specialists in various fields have been invited to Iran and this Spanish doctor is the first specialist doctor who has come to Iran. After examining and treating a number of Iranian sisters and brothers, he was today received by the imam.

Meeting With Fakuri

LD131124 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Dec 80

[Text] Col Javad Fakuri, minister of defense and commander of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, was received this morning by Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to whom he delivered a report on the situation on the various fronts.

Meeting With Guards Commanders

LD131120 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1035 GMT 13 Dec 80

[Text] According to PARS, commanders of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps from all over the country this morning met with Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, at Hoseyniyeh Jamaran Mosque. During this meeting the leader of the revolution spoke about the need for unity between all sections of society and revolutionary structures.

According to the same report, this meeting, which was also attended by the responsible head of the political-ideological department and a group of army officers, began with a recitation of verses from the glorious words of God by one of the army brothers. Another army brother then spoke on behalf of the military. Hojjat ol-Eslam Hajj Sheykh Fazlollah Mahallati, the imam's representative with the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, read the imam of the Islamic nation a report on a meeting held by the corps' commanders. During this meeting Imam Khomeyni read a speech which will be broadcast in detail at the end of this news cast.

Speech to Guard Leaders

GF131728 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1053 GMT 13 Dec 80

[Speech by Imam Khomeyni to revolution guard leaders and officers of the political-ideological bureau of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran on 13 December in Jamaran Mosque, Tehran--recorded, duration 33 minutes]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. I should first thank all the masses for having again arisen in such a time and in a manner suitable to the Islamic Republic and all the divisions which act according to their Islamic and humane duties as well as all the armed forces, be they army, revolution guards, gendarmerie, police or mobilization (?forces), and all others for sacrificing themselves for Islam at this sensitive time. I hope that all these [words indistinct, followed by crowd chanting].

There are some matters of such importance that they must be repeated. The books that are for human training, such as the Koran, and those written on behavior with the intention of guiding individuals and societies have many (?chapters) depending on the importance of the subject. There are many repeated sections in the Koran. Some people question the need for this, but it is necessary.

The invitation to unity is one of the most important things in (?our society) today. So long as the different classes of this nation are not united, do not have the same beliefs and do not follow the correct path together, they will not reach their destination. You have seen that this nation, when united at a point in time, having discarded other aims and following one common theme--that the regime must go--followed this matter united and acted that way, too. It was not just saying "it must go" and "do not act that way." When I say "the nation," it is the same people in the streets, bazaars and avenues, the people of the southern part of the city. [crowd chants "God is great" three times, "Khomeyni is the leader" and "Death to Saddam and dissenters"]

They [not further identified] were debilitated then and though they were sorry about the regime going, they were nothing against the roaring sea of the nation and thus did not say anything. They were incapable of saying anything. You saw the unity of the nation when they followed the same path and same theme. All the powers who (?supported) the shah's satanic power were broken by them. The shah even distanced himself from his soldiers, the ones who were part of the masses and with the people. He could not stay and went to where he should have gone.

This unity, attention to God and (?chants of) "God is great" were the reasons for your victory over those forces. They have kept you at the summit of victory up to today. Therefore, the suggestion I have for the nation and the armed forces is that they make sure the unity is not lost.

Do not think that we have reached all our aims and have no more and should return to our lowly and animal-like life. We are between roads. Thank God, we have traveled the road victoriously so far. The rotten roots that were in Iran are dying one after another and, God willing, you will implement Islam's laws victoriously in this land.

The matters that have to be discussed with you are partly about making yourself into something useful. You must not assume that now that we have destroyed the great power we should act the same way that satanic regime did. You have many enemies and since your aim, in all the forces, is to implement Islam, the Satans are your enemies. These enemies of yours have not stopped. They are plotting constantly. Military plots do not matter that much. The effective plots are those that aim to rot you from within and without and undermine the people's faith in you, thus taking the nation's support away from you. The plan is to instigate as much dissent in the army as they can, between the commanders if they are able to, and so on. They want to instigate disagreement wherever they can, between the army and the revolution guards, to make them despise each other, to say that this group is not devoted to Islam, the other is not informed and has no discipline.

All these are not just meant to destroy you; the base is Islam. The day they discovered and smelled it was the day they found out that it was Islam that had defeated them and united the different classes, making the drops into a roaring tide. Their main aim is to harm Islam. Today all the nation--from the armed forces to the bazaar merchants, students, workers, all the classes of the nation--must be Islam's defenders. [chanting by crowd]

The actions of the past regime caused people to turn against it, and because of this that regime did not last. We must not merely say we are different and not act accordingly. [chanting by crowd] We must not invite unity and act otherwise. We must not invite unity in our papers and act in a different way. Hypocrisy means to say something and not act accordingly, to invite you to do good and what is right and fail to do so, to invite you to real Islam but not really want it. The hypocrite invites you to unite and does nothing to make this a reality. He advises you against divisiveness while he himself is not so.

With the aid of God, we must unite the masses. You officers who, God willing, will be successful must pay attention: The previous regime's army was hated by the people because of the things it had done. And once the decadent groups were destroyed and the rest joined the nation, you saw how the nation valued you. Those days when you passed through the people, individually or collectively, they looked at you only because they were afraid. Their hearts were not with you.

Today the hearts of all the nation are with you. They are with the armed forces. You are part of the nation and not separate. If you separate yourselves from the nation as before they will turn their backs on you and you will not last. This is so for all the armed forces, as well as all government organs. If a government, army or employee wants to impose its will on the people, it is not part of Islam. The armed forces are in service of the people and do not rule the nation. The government and the employees are servants of the people and not the masters. [chanting of crowd]

If you want to overcome all forces so that no force can return you to the situation of being humiliated, you must all be together. You must not think that the gendarmes, the revolution guards and the army are separate, separate organizations. You must consider each other as brothers. Your philosophy is all the same, and that is to strengthen Islam, God willing, and implement Islam.

Bani-Sadr Briefing

LD151110 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Dec 80

[Text] Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, president and commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, at 1000 met and conferred with Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, before leaving for the war fronts in Khuzestan. According to the PARS report, at this meeting Dr Bani-Sadr submitted a report to the imam of the nation on the latest developments in the country and at the battlefronts. At the end of this meeting the president, in reply to a question by the PARS correspondent, said: In general, the situation of the fighting forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran is good in all the battlefronts and, God willing, victory will be ours.

REPORTAGE ON BANI-SADR ACTIVITIES, MEETINGS

Karkheh Kur Inspection Tour

LD121948 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Dec 80

[Text] President Dr Seyyed Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, commander in chief of the armed forces, this afternoon inspected one of the frontline positions west of the Karkheh Kur River.

According to a PARS correspondent's dispatch, the acting chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran was also present during the inspection as the president first arrived at the command headquarters of the forces stationed in this region. At the headquarters the commander of the forces stationed in this region west of the Karkheh Kur described the war plan of the region and the way that the forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran operate in this region to safeguard the Islamic revolution.

The president later inspected several of the trenches and positions of the various units of the armed forces and talked with the officers, NCO's and soldiers.

Return to Tehran

LD131126 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1037 GMT 13 Dec 80

[Text] According to PARS, Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, president of the republic and commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who visited Khuzestan Province to supervise operations by the brave Iranian combatants on the battlefields, returned to Tehran this morning.

Receive French, Italian Envoys

LD131730 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Dec 80

[Text] According to a Central News Bureau report, this afternoon the [presumably new] ambassadors of Italy and France were received separately at the presidential palace by President Dr Seyyed Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, when they presented their credentials. The president later conferred with them.

Meeting With Governors General

LD141750 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Dec 80

[Text] According to a PARS report, provincial issues and problems were reviewed this afternoon at a meeting that included President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr and the governors general. At the meeting discussions were held and decisions--needed to overcome provincial economic problems--were made on the provincial development plans and budget.

12-15 DEC RAJA'I ACTIVITIES, SPEECHES REPORTED

Mashhad Tour

LD121254 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Dec 80

[Text] Mr Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, prime minister, continuing his visit to Khorasan Province, this morning met with the governor general and the members of the central council of the crusade for reconstruction. They studied the problems of the crusade for reconstruction in this province and its activities and past record. They discussed the problems as well as the projects which have been implemented, and the needs and requirements of the crusade for reconstruction for more extensive activities were brought to the notice of the prime minister.

According to the dispatch by the Central News Bureau correspondent, the prime minister then left for the training center of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and, accompanied by the guards brothers, he went to the barracks of the 77th Army Division in Mashhad and took part in a meeting in the barracks mosque attended by Islamic revolution guards, soldiers, NCO's and officers.

In this meeting, after reciting some verses from the glorious Koran, Mr Raja'i made a speech, in which he referred to the role of the armed forces in today's revolutionary society in Iran. He said: At the moment, the armed forces, together with the people and the Islamic revolution gurads are fighting against the aggressive enemy to the extent of their ability in order to safeguard the gains of the revolution and the Islamic homeland.

At the end of this meeting the prime minister, together with Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Tabasi, the representative of the imam, and the governor general of Khorasan went to Imam Khomeyni precinct, the place where the Friday prayers are held in Mashhad, and were warmly welcomed by the large crowd who had come to the prayers.

According to the Central News Bureau report, Mr Raja'i spoke during the Friday prayers. He referred to the Islamic revolution and the active role of the people in this revolution and in its defense, and said: This war is a war imposed on our revolution, but we will protect our revolution with all our being. We have found our path and will not deviate from it. We will never sully our culture with Western manifestations.

Then Mr Raja'i added: Those who criticize revolutionary organizations are trying to weaken the revolution--if this movement had succeeded our revolution would have been destroyed. This is reaction which aims to return us to the prerevolutionary period. We support those who carry out revolutionary activities because, together with the people who fight against difficulties, they remain in this country and will protect the revolution. Continuing his speech, the prime minister said to the imam of the nation: Oh imam of the nation, do not be worried about these criticisms and deviationary activities. We will do all in our power to protect this revolution and present it to the world in such a way that we might replace blasphemy and arrogance throughout the world with: "The word of God is the light of God." Oh imam, may God's blessings be upon him, we pledge to support Islam until we achieve complete victory, so that all the oppressed people of the world may know that Islam is the only liberating ideology and nothing else.

The prime minister also said: The counterrevolutionaries try to weaken the people's morale by asking the government which has not yet been in power for 3 months, and three of whose ministers have not yet been appointed, to present a record of its activities. Our record of activities is quite clear and our ministers are these very people. [as heard] Oh counterrevolutionaries, stop your conspiracies because we are more steadfast than that.

After Mr Raja'i's speech, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Siyahi, the Friday imam of Mashhad, said the Friday prayers.

Speech on Sociologists

LD141438 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0920 GMT 14 Dec 80

[Speech by Iranian Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i at 12 December Friday prayers in Mashhad--recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Oh God, we see the clergy as a group who are in contact with you. We have brought this group into the arena. This group gave us the power to separate the entire world from Islam; we became able to (?reject) the world, go to Islam, donate ourselves and become martyrs. They brought us a new culture, and now you [addressing unspecified person] have come claiming to be a sociologist and a scholar in sociology.

(?Why are you creating discord)? Come and see what we, under the umbrella of Islam, with self-sacrifice, by referring to the shah as the reincarnated Yazid [historical figure who killed the third Shi'a imam at Karbala] and by accepting Khomeyni as imam, were able to do: Revolution [Cries of approval drown out remainder of sentence].

Yes, you said before--and we knew as well--that our imam did not study sociology in great countries of the world and at famous faculties; but we accepted him as a sociologist and thus followed him. [cries of "God is great"]

Yes, once again come and listen to our rural brother and see how he obeys the imam's orders wholeheartedly without any propaganda systems. When the imam ordered all to come out everyone would do so, and when he said "do not come out" nobody did. And if he orders martyrdom, all will go the battlefield, and if he orders "be quiet", everyone will become quiet. This is an example of leadership in Islam and the sociologists are not able to understand it. [cries of approval]

Listen carefully, I repeat once again, we regurgitated the sentences of these sociologists and scholars for years, and we analyzed them for years, but we got nowhere. No one will get anywhere by following these scholars. We follow the path of the imam, the path of the committed clergy, Islam, the Koran, the story of Imam 'Ali [first Shi'a] and the 'A'mmeh [other 11 Shi'a imams]. How do you expect us to return to the satanic era and remain pious? You are planning to bring the laws of Eastern and Western scholars and make us Westernized political officials, like a formula. We shall not follow that path, we are in search of an Islamic life. We are in the process of development and perfection.

Oh, you who want us to be Westernized and to move quickly at the same time: This is impossible. This is a reactionary idea and you are reactionaries, and we shall not follow you. [cries of "God is great"]

Such a struggle is not new; during the days before 11 February [1979] we were chanting slogans in streets; there they tried to present other kinds of slogans, but these people did not permit it.

During the past 20 months, since the victory of the revolution, they have created new tricks and deviations. But our people have followed the imam sincerely and have foiled the plots and rejected their tricks. Now they have started a new trick. They intend to grab from us the committed clergy, the best, holiest and most sincere connection between us and Islam, by all kinds of accusations. And they want to sever the pure line of connection between us and Islam. They must be warned that these people know their committed and combative clergy. These people know well that throughout history, our clergy have never been among the rich, the arrogant or the capitalist; they have always been part of the middle class or below the middle class. They have always been content with the least possessions in the world. They have always solved the disputes among us. They have always felt sorry for us and have been concerned. They have always suffered from our [words indistinct] and have appealed to us; and they have taught us religion. We see our safety in religion and because we consider the clergy as the teachers of this religion, you should know that we shall never abandon them, we shall never abandon Islam. [cries of approval]

They weaken the revolutionary foundations by various means. In practice they themselves have hundreds of faults, they have hundreds of weak points, but when they open their mouths, their first word is to complain against the committees; that is, they complain against one of the best foundations, whose members were the targets of counterrevolutionary bullets at the time when they were asleep at home. Members of these foundations walked in the streets, in the middle of every night, and faced the bullets to allow them that sleep.

Where were those who are now criticizing the committees? Have they forgotten that every night, 2, 5 or 10 members of committees were being assassinated by mercenaries and counterrevolutionaries? How have they forgotten?

Where are they who criticize the mobilization, the guards corps, (?slogan) and other revolutionary foundations? If it were not for the efforts of these revolutionaries, guarding the revolution, we would have been annihilated during the first month after the revolution. In that case there would have been no name left from the revolution and no sign of the imam. Because according to the belief of this group we are reactionaries and our movement is reactionary and we must go back to imposing the shah's regime upon our society, minus the shah himself. They must take such a desire to their graves and they will do so. And they must know that we, as the responsible authority in this country, are aware that the committees, foundations, and the corps have weaknesses; but these foundations are parts of this revolution, they have come from the people and sympathize with the revolution. If today the enemy attacks, they will not rush to buy air tickets for abroad, they will stop and resist till the last drop of blood in their veins. If they are not paid, they do not complain; they put up with hunger. If economic sanctions are imposed upon them, then they fast; and, if they are threatened with death, they will be pleased to be martyred. If you give them food, they donate it.

Note that the revolution is stable on the shoulders of these, and that these are the ones who are safeguarding the revolution; and counterrevolutionaries will not be able to separate them from the people. [cries of approval]

Return to Tehran

LD122200 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Dec 80

[Text] According to PARS, Mr Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, the prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who had gone to Mashhad on an inspection tour to the Province of Khorasan, returned to Tehran at 1400 today.

Also returning to Tehran with the premier was Dr Manafi, minister of health.

Meeting With Defense Minister

LD131726 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Dec 80

[Text] According to PARS, Defense Minister and Commander of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran Col Javad Fakuri today met and conferred with Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i.

During the meeting, which lasted more than 2 hours, war-related topics were reviewed and discussed.

Purge Review Ordered

LD141744 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Dec 80

[Text] According to the Central News Bureau, the following statement was issued today by Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i concerning the purges in government departments:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In view of the fact that the government's policy is based on the implementation of justice according to the high principles of Islam, and in order to safeguard everyone's right in the course of implementing the purge laws and regulations, it has been decided that the issue of the purges should be dealt with immediately in accordance with the government's duty.

The cases will be reviewed of civil servants who have been dismissed or suspended on the directive of any official without payment of their salaries from the date of the implementation of the purge laws and who have not received a letter of dismissal until the final date set for implementation of the purge laws. Therefore, all civil servants in the above category are requested to send personal details as soon as possible to the following address: Tehran, PO Box 500. This information should include given name, surname, organizational unit, place of employment, last position held, and the date of dismissal or suspension.

[Signed] Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i

Meets Bani-Sadr, Inspects Housing

LD151136 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1038 GMT 15 Dec 80

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i met with President Dr Seyyed Abolhasan Bani-Sadr for 30 minutes at noon today. Also, according to our correspondent, Mr Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, inspected prefabricated housing, made in the Minu factory belonging to the foundation of the oppressed, which is to be sent to the war regions.

During his visit, the prime minister first inspected four field hospitals, three mobile kitchens and a cold storage unit built by the Minu factory with the assistance of the foundation of the oppressed. According to this report, the field hospitals have been offered to the Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran by the headquarters for relief aid to the war regions of the country, a subsidiary of the foundation of the oppressed. Also, two field kitchens and one cold storage unit were placed at the disposal of the guards corps. It should be added that goods (?confiscated) from the customs department have been used for the construction of these prefabricated houses.

KHOMAYNI'S SON RECEIVES ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR

LD151156 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1052 GMT 15 Dec 80

[Text] Abdelkarim Ghraier, Algerian ambassador in Tehran, met with Hojjat ol-Eslam Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni this morning. According to PARS, during the meeting the Algerian ambassador conveyed the greetings and felicitations of the president of his country and the Algerian leaders to the imam. He also discussed the war imposed by Iraq upon Iran.

The Algerian ambassador said: From the appearance of the imam's house it can be seen that there is complete solidarity between the people and the leader, because the leader of the Islamic revolution of Iran lives in a house which is the same as the other houses. And this is the true secret of the victory of your Islamic revolution.

SUPREME DEFENSE COUNCIL MEETS 12 DEC UNDER RAJA'I

LD121922 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1638 GMT 12 Dec 80

[Text] According to a PARS report, the Supreme Defense Council held a session tonight in Tehran with Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i at the chair.

Also attending the meeting were Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, Imam Khomeyni's representative to the Supreme Defense Council; the minister of defense and commander of the air force; the commander of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps; Majlis Deputies 'Ali Akbar Parvaresh and Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Montazeri; and Dr Kamal Kharazi, the Council's publicity supervisor.

The meeting, which is still in progress, is reviewing the general situation at the war fronts and ways of encountering the mercenary enemy.

Khamenei on Session

LD131140 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1038 GMT 13 Dec 80

[Text] According to PARS, the nation's current problems were discussed and studied during last night's session of the Supreme Defense Council in Tehran under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i.

In an interview with PARS after this meeting, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, secretary and spokesman of the Supreme Defense Council, said: During last night's session the discussion centered on the problems of those who completed their military service 3 years ago and are now serving on the various fronts. About the length of furlough for personnel who have completed their military service, he said: The length of service by such individuals has been envisaged to be 6 months, and as for the length of furlough to be granted to individuals who have completed their military service, the commanding officers will soon decide on this.

The secretary and spokesman of the Supreme Defense Council added: The second issue put forward at this session was the discrepancies and privileges involved in the allowances to be given to our brothers in accordance with their military ranks. It was decided a commission should investigate this issue and the results of these investigations will be forwarded to the Supreme Defense Council. Of course, the work of this commission will be based on the fact that similar salaries should be paid for similar work.

The secretary of the Supreme Defense Council added: The session decided to pay these brothers their salaries within the next 15 days. Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i said in conclusion about other issues raised during the session of the Supreme Defense Council: Decisions were taken with regard to the work of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and problems connected with the city of Urumiyeh.

BANI-SADR CHAIRS 13 DEC DEFENSE COUNCIL SESSION

LD131716 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Dec 80

[Text] According to PARS, the Supreme Defense Council is holding a meeting tonight presided over by President Dr Seyyed Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, commander in chief of the armed forces. The prime minister, Mr Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i; Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Khamene'i, the imam's Supreme Defense Council envoy; the acting chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran; the defense minister and commander of the air force; the commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps; and 'Ali Akbar Parvaresh, a deputy of the Islamic Consultative Assembly from Tehran, are present at the meeting.

During the meeting, which is still in progress, they will review the general situation at the battlefronts and will discuss ways to encounter the mercenary enemy.

MAJLIS ELCTS DELEGATE TO PRISON COMMISSION

LD141130 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Dec 80

[Text] The Islamic Consultative Assembly held an official closed session and an open session today. During the official closed session, which was convened this morning with the recitation of some verses from the holy Koran, issues related to the war and the war zones were reviewed and discussed.

According to the Central News Bureau, following this session, in view of a request by the country's prosecutor general, the Islamic Consultative Assembly held an open session and elected a representative to participate with the commission investigating prison conditions and the problem of alleged torture.

Our correspondent's report indicates that during this session, which was held under the chairmanship of Mr 'Ali Akbar Parvaresh, the deputy speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, the deputies voted and elected 'Ali Mohammad Besharati-Jahromi, the deputy of the people of Jahrom, as the representative of the Islamic Consultative Assembly to participate in the commission investigating prison conditions and the problem of torture in prisons.

The next session of the Majlis will be held at 0800 hours tomorrow.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, GOVERNORS GENERAL MEET

LD132118 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2048 GMT 13 Dec 80

[Text] According to our correspondent's report, a joint session of the Council of Ministers and the governors general was held tonight with Mr Behzad Nabavi, minister of state for executive affairs, at the chair.

The meeting discussed and reviewed issues facing the nation and made some decisions.

CABINET TO MEET MONTHLY WITH GOVERNORS GENERAL

LD140906 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0300 GMT 14 Dec 80

[Text] A joint session of the Cabinet and governors general was held last night. It was chaired by Mr Behzad Nabavi, minister of state in charge of the prime minister's executive affairs. Our correspondent interviewed the minister of state as follows:

[Begin recording] [Nabavi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. As you know, once a month on the invitation of the Interior Ministry the governors general gather in Tehran to discuss and review issues of common concern. Since the formation of the new government, it has been policy for a Cabinet member to attend some of these sessions. This time we decided that the governors general and the Cabinet should hold a joint session so that proposals by the governors general could be raised in the presence of the Cabinet.

[Question] Please tell us what issues were reviewed and what decisions were made?

[Answer] A number of important matters were reviewed and discussed: namely, the powers of the governors general; relations between the governors general and the ministers and directors general in the provinces; relations between the governors general and the armed forces and the army, in the war regions in particular; and relations between the governors general and the Red Crescent in coordinating relief works. It was decided that in order to make relations between the government and the governors general more fruitful a joint session of the governors general and the Cabinet should be held once a month, each time in a different province. Regarding coordination between the government and the governors general, the Cabinet decided that henceforth all directors general of government departments should be appointed only after consultation with the governors general. Also, more notice should be taken of the recommendations made by the governors general regarding the directors general. [end recording]

MONTAZERI MEETS WITH POLICE PERSONNEL, GUARDS

LD121304 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Dec 80

[Text] About 100 members of Tehran's police department and heads of local police stations met the illustrious theologian, His Excellency Ayatollah Montazeri, in Qom this morning. During this meeting, in reply to the speech by the representative of the political-ideological department of the police of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Excellency Ayatollah Montazeri expressed gratitude and appreciation for their work and called on all personnel of the army, the gendarmerie, the police, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and other revolutionary organs for greater unity and cohesion with regard to plots by the superpowers whose interests in the region have been endangered. His Excellency Ayatollah Montazeri said: The people should be vigilant and should not be deceived, because the enemy sometimes may don the garb of a friend and, abusing the gullibility of individuals, may attempt to put into effect its mysterious designs under the name of Islam and religion.

In another part of his speech His Excellency Ayatollah Montazeri said: We all know that in order to attain the victory of the revolution all the segments of society have practised self-denial and thereby gave a great many martyrs, and the personnel of the police department and of the police stations played a worthy role to this end. Therefore, the nation should not be separated from the law enforcement forces and vice versa, and the police and gendarmerie should consider themselves as part of the Islamic nation and should strive to carry out their incumbent duties in the best possible manner.

His Excellency Ayatollah Montazeri added: I am a mere seminarist who sincerely serves you, marching shoulder to shoulder with you and with other brothers engaged in carrying out their responsibilities in serving Islam and Muslims, and in protecting the world oppressed. May their conduct and deeds be not such as to contribute to the weakening of the clergy. They, too, are equal to others in the execution of their divine responsibilities and we all face a common enemy. The United States and the USSR are both our enemies and, therefore, one should strive to follow the straight path and, according to the saying of the holy Imam 'Ali--may peace be upon him--one should never deviate either to the left or right.

According to our correspondent's dispatch, more than 200 members of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the imam's devotees who returned from the battlefields also met His Excellency Ayatollah Montazeri in Damghan today. During this meeting His Excellency Ayatollah Montazeri prayed to Almighty God to grant all health and success.

KHAMENE'I ON INTERNAL OPPOSITION, FIGHTING

JN121133 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 12 Dec 80

[Friday sermon by Tehran Friday Imam Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i at Tehran University mosque in Persian with superimposed translation--live]

[Excerpts] The ultimate test in our life is the war imposed by the hireling regime in Iraq on the Islamic Republic. This war has been a major test for our revolutionary struggling people. Our people have triumphed. The world will always remember and judge our people by this victory. Most factions of the people have performed their duty to this end and scored victory, including our heroic soldiers, revolution guards, volunteers and both women and men fighters who have bravely faced death on the battlefronts.

There also exists a faction that has failed the test in the war. No one should question this war; the enemy violated our territory, and it is our duty to defend the country. This is what we have in fact done. Those who said that they love and defend this revolution and that they love and defend the people have no excuse for not participating in this war. They have obstructed the progress of the battles. In the first days of the war, these individuals--reportedly Iranians--said that Iran stands in the ranks of the United States. These agents also went further, daring to say that the Islamic Republic works in the U.S. interest and that the Iraqi Government is revolutionary.

Those who have supported Saddam's regime, particularly the lackey regimes in the area, have given Iraq \$12 billion. Kuwait also has committed itself to a \$12-billion loan to Iraq. These regimes have placed all their capabilities at Iraq's disposal. All world news agencies talked against Iran. Now they are all incapable of proceeding along their road because matters have become crystal clear.

The enemies have now realized that they must weaken us from the rear. Regrettably, the enemy of the Islamic revolution is now active in the rear. Brothers and sisters, I tell those of you who are here today in the arena of unity and those in every spot of the country who are listening to this sermon to be vigilant and alert because the revolution's enemies, after despairing of the battlefield, have come to our rear. You must be alert to rob the enemy of the opportunity to strike at us from the rear. The enemies are freely active behind the front.

In another development, there are some internal battles that are raging between the Islamic Republic and the United States in Kordestan for example. You are a people fighting the biggest power in the world with full strength and energy. You occupy a prominent position in the hearts of the world Muslims because you are fighting for the sake of the Koran.

There is a faction in this society which is trying in the name of democracy, freedom and solidarity with the masses to carry out acts of sabotage. Who are they who are fighting in Kordestan? Does anybody doubt that they are linked with world imperialism? Who is kindling the fire in Kordestan and in (?Turkestan)? We told them you are Americans. They protested and said: We are both counterrevolutionaries and enemies of the United States. [passage indistinct]

While we are today waging a war at this level and of this significance, they who consider themselves part of our people are firing on the revolution guards, the army and unarmed and innocent citizens, including Kurds and Turkmens. Aren't they American agents? The revolution's enemies are exploiting every weak point in the cities and society to sow sedition and foment disputes.

The enemy is trying to distort facts. Despite the hard work of the officials to perform their duties and to run the country's affairs, the enemy is trying to portray them as doing nothing in an attempt to sow chaos. Frankly speaking, the role and designs of the revolution's enemies are to disrupt studies in the schools and to deprive the children and youth of their schooling. The enemies seek to foment sedition and divisiveness at schools in order to drag the revolution guards to these fabricated battles. It is a plot. These are designs meticulously planned by the revolution's enemies. It is no coincidence that these problems occur in many schools. Chanting slogans about freedom itself constitutes a plot, because we are free.

I said before that freedom does not mean that the revolution's enemies should be able to deal blows to us. We cannot accept this. We must remedy it. We will never permit any saboteur to place a bomb under a railway. This is not freedom. Freedom is a means to express opinions and to [word indistinct]

REVOLUTION GUARDS COMMANDER REZA'I INTERVIEWED

JN131639 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 13 Dec 80

["Text" of part I of interview granted to the Arabic section of the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran by Mohsen Reza'i, member of the Islamic Revolution Guards' Command Council--date and place not given--recorded; questions in Arabic, and answers in Persian fading into Arabic translation]

[Excerpts] [Question] First of all, I would like to ask brother struggler Mohsen Reza'i to identify the Islamic revolution guards to our dear listeners, though they know much about them, gaining their knowledge before and after this imposed war.

[Answer] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Against them make ready your strength to the utmost of your power.

Due to its characteristics, the Islamic revolution achieved prominent gains, one of which was the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps. After 1975, our revolutionary Islamic forces began to think about founding a strong armed organization. The main reason for that was the fact that the communist forces dealt an incurable blow to our Islamic movement in 1975. This concept and aspiration increased in strength in 1977 and began to be implemented. On 11 February, the peak of our popular revolution--when the masses attacked and occupied the garrisons--all the factions in the various cities that were thinking of a strong armed organization met at the imam's headquarters at the time and laid down the plan for a strong organization.

The aim of the revolution guards corps is to protect and preserve the Islamic revolution. Unlike the army and the various military and regular forces in the world, whose aim is to preserve states, national soil and sovereignty, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps is in charge of safeguarding the revolution and its gains.

[Question] Brother Mohsen Reza'i: When Saddam's traitorous regime launched this war against the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Islamic revolution guards joined the battles quite promptly. Were you prepared? How did you prepare for fighting at such speed?

[Answer] Before Saddam's forces attacked our Islamic revolutionary country, we had accurate information about the movements he wanted to carry out. However, we never thought that he would be able to force our Muslim brothers in the Iraqi Army to undertake such an action. On the other hand, we did not imagine that Saddam might commit such a major political mistake, unfortunately, instead of confronting Israel and America, Saddam launched a large-scale offensive against our Muslim people and our revolutionary Muslim country, aided by the funds--which amounted to about \$12 billion--that were offered to him by the reactionary states in the region before the war upon an order from America and in agreement with these states. Despite the fact that we were fully alert, we were taken aback in the first few days and he managed to take some of our lands. However, later on we organized our forces and confronted him. Of course, the revolution guards were stationed at some border points when the war began. They also clashed with the Iraqi forces and inflicted heavy losses on them.

[Question] Could you tell us about the most important battles waged by the revolution guards in this imposed war?

[Answer] Our most important battle was in Khuninshahr, which we also called Tall az-Za'tar. Most of our brothers in Khorramshahr were local Arab guards, who identified the Iraqi forces' positions and attacked them. In one of the offensives in Khorramshahr, the offensive was coordinated with the revolutionary army for the liberation of Iraq. Thirty to 40 enemy personnel were killed by explosive charges.

In another clash, which occurred at the beginning of an attack by Saddam Husayn's troops on Susangerd and Hamidiyeh--an attack which was followed by the appointment of a mayor for Susangerd from among the invading troops, something which practically proved their intervention in the affairs of an Islamic land and state--our brother revolution guards carried out night operations from 0200 to 0500 and forced the Iraqi Army to withdraw 10-15 km. In yet another operation coordinated between the revolution guards, on the one hand, and the army, mobilization personnel and volunteers, we clashed with the Iraqi forces in Hamidiyeh. In this clash, our brother guards seized four tanks and one personnel carrier intact. They also captured 10 persons, who were transported to the revolution guards headquarters. Upon interrogation, the captives were overtaken by panic because they imagined that the guards would kill them. However, after they had received good treatment, they swore that if the Iraqi forces' personnel knew that the revolution guards would treat them with such love and sympathy, they would all join them in 1 day.

In an operation in Ramsheh, southwest of Ahvaz, the revolution guards fought from 0200 to 0500 and destroyed more than 20 tanks, 4 personnel carriers, 1 truck and 1 106-mm gun. The guards were only 20 meters from the enemy. An RPG shell fired by a revolution guard at an enemy tank bounced back at him because the RPG system we have is different from other systems. During this operation one of the brothers thought he saw a sand dune, but upon touching it he realized that it was an enemy tank. He moved back and destroyed it. In Susangerd, too, the revolution guards scored epic victories in their defense of the city when the Iraqi mercenaries attacked it.

Since the guards' operations are fedayeen and guerrilla war operations, they are countless and cannot be numerated now.

From the radio and television interviews with the revolution guards at the fronts, it seems that they are fully aware of Islamic ideology. Could you tell us about the ideological education received by the Islamic revolution guards?

[Answer] Unlike all government and military organizations in states and even revolutions, the Islamic revolution guards have special characteristics. Instead of employing individuals, as done by the various military and even revolutionary organizations and structures, the revolution guards corps accepts membership. This means that it does not have a special section for appointing individuals, but has forces in charge of investigating and choosing personnel from among the volunteers. It has happened several times that 20, 30 or 40 volunteers offered their services, but no more than 2 of them were chosen to become members.

The members must have faith in the Islamic creed and the unified world Islamic nation. These are among the qualifications required for membership. They must also have faith in the Islamic revolution and love of jihad and martyrdom. Those individuals who desire to obtain money must not join the revolution guards.

Most of the individuals who joined the revolution guards represented the revolutionary forces that resisted the shah for many years. Many of them were imprisoned during the former regime's rule. Those individuals played a role in the Islamic revolution's struggle on the level of the masses. They used to organize demonstrations, call on people to take to the streets and distribute the imam's statements and sayings. The revolution guards corps was formed of those individuals.

Another important point is that we in the revolution guards give primary importance to the ideological and political dimensions more than the military ones. Unlike the brothers in the Iraqi Army, the revolution guard now knows accurately why he is defending Khuzestan and why he must fight the aggressive forces.

The revolution guards know the meaning of the words uttered by the U.S. ambassador to Israel when he told Begin that the Iraqi planes which took shelter in Jordan do not pose a threat against Israel. Do our Iraqi brothers know this?

Do they know about the talks held between America and Saudi Arabia; between Jordan and Saddam; and between Saddam and Qabus, who have recently met three times? Of course our Iraqi brothers know nothing about this.

As for us, when the imam himself received a message from Carter, it was clear that the imam's policy was to read it publicly. Carter then got confused and said: Oh what a woe; this did not happen! However, when he realized that the message was made public and the matter was all over, he confirmed sending it. This is the good policy--freedom, Islam and the mission. The revolution guards are obsessed with this spirit. They come from the heart of the people and revolution. Therefore, the revolution guards know exactly why they are fighting. Therefore, they receive martyrdom with eagerness, unlike the Iraqi brothers, who are forcibly dragged with chains and tricks to fight.

[Question] What is the nature of the role now being played by the revolution guards at the fronts? How is coordination of operations achieved between the revolution guards, on the one hand, and the army, the mobilization personnel and the volunteers?

[Answer] After we refuted the claims about the war by the Iraqi brothers, who had to understand and realize that their actions were aggressive, we, the revolution guards, based our policy on the fact that as long as the enemy is on our land, we have to fight him. We planned our fighting on the basis of the nature of our fedayeen action. After we had organized our forces in the form of fedayeen groups, we engaged the enemy on all fronts and fought the invaders who entered our country without any justification.

Realizing that Saddam is not fit to rule in Iraq, the Muslim country, we expanded our fedayeen operations on all fronts. We are fighting a guerrilla war based on creed. We offered the army many specialists, who are now fighting with the army. Since the nature of our work is different from that of the army, there is complete harmony between us. The difference occurs when two different structures undertake one job. Sometimes we carry out observation acts and the army undertakes the shelling. We formed joint and harmonious commands on all fronts. The ground forces' aircraft bomb and we attack. There is complete harmony between the people, guards and army on the fronts.

Part II

JN141556 [Editorial Report] Tehran International Service in Arabic at 1135 GMT on 14 December 1980 carries the 25-minute text of part II of the interview given the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Arabic section by Mohsen Reza'i, Islamic Revolution Guards Command Council member. In reply to the first question, dealing with the Majlis' ratification of a law incorporating the mobilization force elements into the revolution guards, Reza'i reviews the guards corps' history and relationship with the Iranian people from the outset of the Iranian revolution.

In response to the second question, on the revolution guards' participation in Majlis Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani's recent visit to "revolutionary Arab capitals," Reza'i says that "the Steadfastness Front or progressive countries in the region and the Palestinian brothers have proven that they oppose this war." He adds that "in our talks with brother Yasir 'Arafat, he said that this is an American war, in the interest of America." Reza'i says that the revolution guards took part in Rafsanjani's visit and in many meetings on "the issue of Israel's expulsion from the Islamic region." He notes "positive results" in this regard and agreement that "the Muslims in this region should draw up a basic Islamic ideology and plan, in light of which all Muslims' efforts would join and cooperate militarily, so that this issue will end successfully with Israel's expulsion."

In his reply to the third and final question on how he views the war with Iraq, Reza'i says "we are a brave people, possessing all of the weapons the shah had," and adds: "We are optimistic about this war for, as was the shah, Saddam is in his last days." He says that "Saddam has lost his dignity throughout the region" and notes that, though "Saddam received \$12 billion" in foreign aid, the countries providing that aid "have gone back on their stands because they have become concerned about themselves. They thought that the war would be successful in only 3 days, but panicked and left him alone on the battlefield." At the end of the interview, Reza'i says: "We call on the Iraqi people's sons who were sent to the battlefronts by the Tikriti regime to hand themselves over to the nearest Iranian post."

NAVY COMMANDER ON GULF ISLANDS, WAR WITH IRAQ

JN132257 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1855 GMT 13 Dec 80

[From the press review]

[Text] On its third page, KEYHAN published the statements made by the Iranian naval force commander in an interview with the paper's correspondent on the successive victories scored by our forces against the Iraqi forces.

On the pretéxts used by the Iraqi regime with regard to the restoration of the three islands and its call on Iran to officially recognize Iraq's possession of Arvand Rud [Shatt al-'Arab], the naval force commander said: What has happened in Iran is a great popular revolution, whose dimensions spread outside the borders. Since this revolution was a radical and creative one, the degenerate and reactionary regimes as well as the region's states, whose thrones were shaken following this revolution, assembled in co-operation with and with aid from their masters to implement this big plot of attacking Iran under the guise of [words indistinct].

The naval force commander added that the main goal of imposing this war against Iran and attacking it is to, first, deatch Khuzestan from Iran and form a (?new) government in that region, from which [words indistinct] to overthrow our young Islamic Republic. He added: We will not only defeat the aggressive Iraqi Army, but we will also topple the agent Iraqi Ba'thist government. We will safeguard our freedom, independence and nonsubservience. We will also liberate the Iraqi people.

On the importance of the islands and the Strait of Hormuz to Iran, the naval force commander said: In general, all the islands in the Persian Gulf have always belonged to Iran. However, the British colonialist policy, which dominated this region for hundreds of years, controlled these regions, which cannot be split from our lands. In order to preserve its ill-omened objectives, it did not allow us to possess an adequate naval force in order to [word indistinct] and restore our legitimate rights. Accordingly, in 1349 [presumably 1971] Iran regained these islands, which belonged to it. Bu Musa, one of these islands, is important from the economic point of view because it contains oil. As for Tunb Bozorg and Tunb Kuchak, they are important from the military-strategic point of view. These islands were Iranian, became Iranian and will remain Iranian.

In reply to a question on the Iranian naval force's ability to guarantee the freedom of oil and commercial navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, the Iranian naval force commander said: Our naval force is the best naval force in the region. Compared with world standards, it has a good capability [words indistinct]. Therefore, there was no reason for the others to send their warships from distances of thousands of kilometers to this region under the flimsy pretext that they want to be present in the region by having their fleets here. They will then continue to plunder the wealth of this region's peoples as they did before or even more than before.

The Iranian naval force commander said that one of the Iraqi regime's objectives was to destroy the Iranian oil installations on Khark Island and to stop the export of Iran's oil. Therefore, this regime's air force launched wide-scale and repeated raids against Khark Island and Bushehr port. However, it lost about 70 of its fighter planes in this region. What it achieved was to inflict some partial losses on it.

DELEGATE TO OPEC DISCUSSES KIDNAPPING, GAS EXPORT

LD122052 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1944 GMT 12 Dec 80

[Text] Iran will defend its stance in using oil as a political and economic weapon, and will condemn the Iraqi Ba'thist regime for kidnapping the Iranian oil minister, Mr Javad Tondguyan, in the forthcoming OPEC meeting, which is due to be held in Bali, Indonesia.

Mr Sadat, the head of the Iranian delegation to this conference, said before departing Tehran: The kidnapping of the Iranian oil minister and his aide will be the most important issue of the coming session for Iran. He also said: Oil should be used as a politicoeconomic weapon for the benefit of the oppressed people of the world.

Regarding the export of gas to the Soviet Union, Mr Sadat reiterated that the Soviets have not yet accepted the price proposed by Iran. But, [words indistinct] they are still eager to buy Iranian gas, but Iran will not sell (?gas) so long as the price proposed by Iran has not been accepted by the Soviets.

TONDGUYAN'S FATE TO BE STRESSED AT OPEC MEETING

NC131352 Paris AFP in English 1346 GMT 13 Dec 80

[Text] Tehran, 13 Dec (AFP)--The main subject at next week's conference in Bali of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) will be Iran's demand for Iraq to free captured Iranian Oil Minister Mohammad Javad Tondguyan, former Oil Minister 'Ali Akbar Mo'infar affirmed here today.

"Mr Tondguyan has been tortured and that is why the Iraqis refuse to free him, because he is not in condition to be shown to the world," Mr Mo'infar told AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE.

Mr Mo'infar, now chairman of parliament's petroleum committee, denied reports that Mr Tondguyan was being treated for wounds received when captured on October 31 while inspecting the refinery city of Abadan: "I witnessed his arrest from a car behind his. I and friends hidden behind trees saw that he was safe and sound when captured."

Refusal to free him would have "consequences on OPEC's future and unity," warned Mr Mo'infar. He said the captive has been officially designated as the head of Iran's delegation at the Bali meeting, though it will actually be led by Deputy Minister Hassan Sadat.

Mr Mo'infar said Iran's delegation at Bali will back a Vienna report by eight OPEC countries recommending a basic price of 35 to 36 dollars a barrel for Arabian light crude oil.

He said Iran is now consuming about half a million barrels of petroleum refinery daily.

The bombarded refineries at Abadan supplied half Iran's needs before the war with Iraq. "But since rationing has reduced our consumption by one half, and since we export no more refinery products, we still produce enough for our needs," he said.

Mr Mo'infar said Iraqi Oil Minister Tayih 'Abd al-Karim was bragging when he claimed Iraq was now exporting one million barrels a day and ready to double that. He was trying to give the impression that Iraq was "a stable country and reliable source of supply."

Iraq was really exporting only around 350,000 barrels, Mr Mo'infar estimated. Its pipelines to the Mediterranean were insufficient for the claimed volume. Iran had destroyed Iraq's oil terminals on the Gulf at Al-Bakr and Al-Ummayah.

Iran was very sorry to bombard such installations, belonging to the Iraqi people rather than their President Saddam Husayn, and was willing to help rebuild them after the war, Mr Mo'infar said.

COMMENTARY EXAMINES BREZHNEV PROPOSAL FOR GULF

LD141338 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Dec 80

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Leonid Brezhnev, the leader of the Soviet Communist Party, recently paid a visit to India. In this visit, which seems to have not been too successful for him as he was unable to justify to Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi the presence of the Russian forces in Afghanistan, he presented a five-point proposal on the Middle East, which in some ways is a suitable proposal which could be in the interest of the countries in the Middle East, provided that it goes beyond the level of talk and the propaganda war in order to some out of the political isolation caused by the occupation of Afghanistan and provided that he himself respects the points which have been set forth in the proposed resolution.

However, before this proposal is put into operation by the American superpower and by the countries in the Gulf it should be acted upon by the Soviet Union itself. Brezhnev's proposed plan contains the following points:

1. To refrain from establishing military bases or installing nuclear and heavy weapons in the Persian Gulf.
2. To refrain from using or threatening to use force against the countries of the region or in order to interfere in their internal affairs.
3. To respect the nonaligned position of the countries of the Persian Gulf.
4. To refrain from trade embargoes or the creation of obstacles in the region.
5. To respect the rights of various countries in regard to their natural resources.

Various positions have been taken in response to this plan. The positions of the Western and imperialist countries have, on the whole, been against this plan. Edmund Muskie, the American secretary of state, has described this plan as entrusting the protection of [word indistinct] chickens to the fox. England has also adopted a similar position. However, the opposition from America and England has a different source. The contents of the proposed plans are, in fact, a propaganda confrontation with the West, because the plan contains a few points which are contrary to the interests of the West. The point of refraining from establishing military bases, raised at a time when America has bases in most of the countries of the region who are obedient to America, plays the biggest role in this regard. Refraining from the installation of nuclear and heavy weapons would also be contrary to Western interests in the Persian Gulf area.

On the other hand, the Persian Gulf is of vital importance to the West, and refraining from interference in their internal affairs is also an unpleasant proposal to them, bearing in mind the interests of the imperialists in that region. Therefore, the opposition of Western governments such as America and England is mainly due to the fact that the contents of the plan are precisely aimed at the reversal of their domination in the region.

However, what makes the Islamic Republic hesitate about the proposed plan of the Soviet leader is not the same as the opposition of the Western countries to this plan. The point is that we are hearing these words from someone who has not shown much interest in some of the contents of that plan. If we are not supposed to have any doubts in the good intentions of Brezhnev in proposing this plan, we should accept the proposition that the Soviet Union is a peace-loving country which casts no covetous eyes on the interests of the Muslim people of this region and will leave them to themselves. However, if the countries in the region are willing to act according to this plan, naturally, Afghanistan should also be able to tell the Soviet Union that the presence of its forces in that country is contrary to the independence of the Afghan nation. To hear these words from a leader whose forces are at the moment in Muslim Afghanistan creates some doubt in the countries of the region. Is there any guarantee that if the countries of the Gulf region wish to act in accordance with the contents of that plan, they can remain confident about the Eastern power? If the policy of noninterference in the affairs of other countries of the region is acceptable to the Soviet Union, then how do they justify the occupation of Afghanistan, which has continued in the severest form for many months? The other question is whether this plan should only be carried out by the Western superpower or whether it will also be bound by it.

It is true that the West has set up numerous bases in the region and that the Persian Gulf is in a position of danger, in that many dangers threaten it from the West. However, the Soviet Union is not far behind. If the bases of the superpowers were to be dismantled in the region, would the Soviet Union also comply with this?

In any case, the proposal of the Soviet leader for the countries of the Middle East is a positive proposal in itself. However, it should be seen whether this plan is part of a propaganda campaign to regain Soviet credibility in the region, whether it is a well-meaning proposal for the interest of the Muslim masses of the region, or whether it is another propaganda campaign which we have witnessed from time to time.

Naturally, the policy of the Islamic Republic is not only the repudiation of the West; the repudiation of the practices of Western imperialism does not mean the confirmation of the practices of the East. Intervention is intervention and aggression is aggression. If aggression is bad, it does not mean that one should condemn it only if it is American imperialist aggression; although there is no argument that the West has inflicted the greatest loss upon the interests of the Muslim masses of the region. Nevertheless, the Middle East cannot remain indifferent when its political honor and its economic and social independence have been violated by any other foreign power as well as America.

The solution to the political impasse in the region rests in the real independence of the Middle East. The material benefits, the financial wealth and the underground assets of the countries of this region belong to its Muslim nations. According to the people who live in these countries, the solution to the problems of the Middle East lies in true and Islamic unity and the repudiation of dependence upon any foreign superpower.

In this connection, the Soviet Union, to demonstrate its good will concerning its recent proposal, can put an end to its occupation of Afghanistan and leave its destiny to the Muslim nation of that country. In addition to that, it should dismantle its bases in the region. In connection with the Iran-Iraq war, it should formally announce its neutrality and reaffirm that it does not sell arms to Iraq.

In this connection, it should abrogate that part of the treaty of 1921 which allows the two countries to send their forces to each other's soil when they feel endangered, which is basically and clearly contrary to the policy of noninterference in the affairs of other countries.

If the Soviet Union acts according to these points it could, naturally, make a great contribution to the independence of the Middle East and prove the good intentions of the Soviet leader in his recent proposal. In that case, the countries of the region will regard this proposal positively and will settle their accounts with the American superpower.

In short, the proposed plan is in itself a good and positive proposal; but can one really regard it as completely genuine in view of the continuation of the occupation of Afghanistan and the existence of Soviet bases in the region and other points referred to above; is it is merely a seemingly attractive diplomatic attempt aimed at de-Westernization or merely an attempt to be regarded as the wronged party and to win credibility among the countries of the region? The policies the Soviet Union henceforth implements in connection with that plan can clarify these questions.

AHVAZ RADIO: HUSAYN IS REAGAN'S TRUMP CARD

GF130726 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Arabic 1540 GMT 12 Dec 80

[Excerpts] The hostile stand adopted by Shah Husayn during his recent press conference on the Syrian-Jordanian crisis has regenerated the tension that had eased following the relative agreement brought about by the Saudi mediation. Informed sources in Damascus have announced that the withdrawal of Syrian forces from the borders has been halted following the hostile statements of Shah Husayn, the puppet king of Jordan. On the day before yesterday, Damascus radio accused King Husayn of seeking to exacerbate the situation on the Syrian borders, thus implementing the new U.S. plot to topple the Syrian regime and subsequently to liquidate the Palestinian question.

In a statement on television 2 days ago Shah Husayn said that in supporting the gangs opposing the Syrian regime--which are receiving their training in their bases in Jordan--Jordan is not giving protection to marauders and troublemakers but is supporting a movement opposed to the Syrian regime. Moreover, Shah Husayn defended the disturbances in the Syrian cities, describing them as a revolutionary movement with a broad popular base. He warned that Jordan will not withdraw a single soldier until all the Syrian soldiers on Jordan's borders are withdrawn.

Political circles, particularly in Beirut, have received these statements--which included Husayn's admission of sending military and economic supplies to the fascist Ba'thist regime in Iraq via the port of 'Aqaba and his renewed declaration of support for the At-Tikriti regime--with astonishment. Following the Saudi mediation Jordan had agreed not to interfere in Syria's internal affairs and end its rancor toward the Palestinians, which dates back to Black September, by recognizing the PLO. However, it appears that Jordan has forgotten these Syrian conditions.

Political circles in Damascus consider Shah Husayn Reagan's trump card in the Middle East, in the same way As-Sadat was Carter's trump card which produced the Camp David conspiracy.

It appears that Husayn will soon join As-Sadat and Israel at the negotiating table. Reports on the visit of Henry Kissinger, the architect of U.S. foreign policy, to the Middle East--and Jordan--in the near future indicate the possibility of another Camp David process with Husayn's participation. In a statement to TIME magazine, Reagan admitted--after referring to the Soviet Union's attitude toward the Middle East and comparing the area to a volcano about to erupt--that Jordan is the key to a Middle East solution. Those who are aware of the true face of this puppet regime and its support for imperialism realize the gravity of the danger of the coming [words indistinct], and fully understand the meaning of the direct and indirect [word indistinct] statements on King Husayn joining the negotiating table of another Camp David.

We recall the statements by President Hafiz al-Asad at a press conference during the height of the Syrian-Jordanian crisis in the past weeks. He said that Syria will not allow the emergence of a new As-Sadat in Jordan.

Shah Husayn is the executor of this new policy--a policy that leads to the realization of imperialism's new and vile ambitions in the Middle East in the Gulf. It appears from the new U.S. policy in the area that U.S. imperialist ambitions in the future will take the form of a military attempt in the Middle East. These predictions have entered the stage of implementation through U.S. military concentrations in the Gulf and the Indian Ocean. The agents who have been prepared to implement these ambitions are all insignificant people who have dedicated themselves to serve U.S. interests [word indistinct] the world's oppressed peoples and to insolently carry out Washington's orders.

By closely following U.S. foreign policy in the future one can deduce that the leader of world imperialism intends to impose its new hegemony over the Middle East through a group of gendarmes in the area comprising the leaders of reactionary Arab states, such as Shah Husayn, As-Sadat and the other satellites, in addition to the Zionist entity. Thus, Brzezinski says in Canada that the new NATO alliance in the Gulf if not in the U.S. interest. [as heard] It is not to be ruled out that the United States intends to encircle the area with a military body that controls the destiny of the peoples of the area and permanently preserve the interests of world imperialism. We have said in the past that the fall of the buried shah in Iran has proved to the United States that it is no longer able to safeguard its interests through a gendarme in the area for such a theory has become invalid. Indeed, the United States intends to form a puppet body that will carry out its role if one of its allies should fall as a result of a revolutionary mass movement. There have been a number of proofs for the formation of such a military body. The hostile statements that have taken the form of a sharp threat by the Jordanian shah, the anti-Syrian statements of the Zionist delegate at the United Nations and the immediate transport of U.S. military supplies to Jordan are all clear evidence of the U.S. attempt to set up the desired military body in the Middle East and the Gulf. However, what should be taken into consideration in this analysis is the stand of the area's awakened peoples on the side of their progressive regimes--these peoples are a barrier in the way of U.S. calculations and will not remain idle in the face of such U.S. attempts.

IRAQ CUTS TELEPHONE LINKS WITH GULF COUNTRIES

GF121406 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Dec 80

[Text] The correspondent of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Dubayy reports that at a time when scores of trucks carrying fuel and foodstuff are daily reaching Iraq from Kuwait, and following the closure of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti borders to travelers by the traitorous Saddam regime, this dying regime has cut off telephone communications between Iraq and the Persian Gulf countries in order to prevent the spread of news about the deterioration of the situation in Iraq and the activities of the Iraqi mujahidin.

NIOC RADIO REPORTS ARRESTS, ARMED CLASHES IN IRAQ

GF121432 Abadan NIOC Radio in Arabic 0900 GMT 12 Dec 80

[Text] Citing travelers recently arriving in Syria from Lebanon, the PARS correspondent in Damascus reports that during the past few days citizens of An-Najaf [in Iraq] were the victims of brutal arrests, and that 520 persons were arrested. The correspondent says that the number of people arrested is increasing as a result of the wave of oppression to the Iraqi regime.

The travelers said that during the past few days three Muslim Iraqi mujahidin launched an attack on the agents of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime, killing 30 members of the Iraqi Ba'thist army. One of the mujahidin was martyred, another was wounded, while the third returned safely to base.

In the course of a clash between the Muslim mujahidin and the Ba'thist army forces in the As-Salam district of Baghdad, the mujahidin killed the commander of these forces in the area.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 336

LD121804 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1640 GMT 12 Dec 80

[Communique 336 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In the name of God. The Muslim and fighting people of Iran: The Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran continue to defend the Islamic homeland in the various battlefronts of war between right and the devil, assaulting the invader enemy in order to mop up the land of Islamic Iran from the enemy's dirty existence.

Some of the force's operations on 11 and 12 December are as follows:

1. From early today, scattered artillery fire, tank fire and light weapons fire began and is still in progress. Also, the artillery of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran brought the regions of Ash-Shu'aybah and Bostan under fire, as a result of which two enemy tanks were destroyed and five of the Iraqi mercenary forces' personnel were wounded. Military installations at Umm ar-Rasas in southeast Iraq were also aimed at. No exact information concerning losses and casualties inflicted has been released.
2. Engagements in the regions of Shur-e Shirin, (Kan-e Sakht), the village of Konjamcham, and Malekshahi Heights are continuing and the invader enemy has brought the regions of Dezful, Shush, (Zurf) and Naderi under the fire of artillery and mortar launchers. The mortars launched at Dezful resulted in some damage to the residential sector of the city.
3. As a result of shelling by the artillery of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the enemy's position in the Khuzestan region, one armored personnel carrier, one vehicle, two (Malesha) missiles, two field refrigerators and one ammunition tent were destroyed, four Iraqi personnel were wounded and one of the enemy's force was also killed.
4. On 11 December part of Abadan's residential area came under heavy weapons fire from the mercenary Iraqi forces resulting in some losses. The enemy also brought Khuninshahr's naval base under fire. The forces of Islam retaliated by bringing the Iraqi forces' positions at the western embankment of the Karun River and regions of Kut Az-Zayn and yesterday.

Meanwhile an Iraqi soldier surrendered to the Islamic forces in the Kur-e Mush heights yesterday.

GUERRILLA PENETRATION OF ENEMY FRONT REPORTED

LD150540 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0440 GMT 15 Dec 80

[Text] The Central News Bureau, quoting an official at the public relations department of the governor general's office in Ilam, reports: On 11 and 12 December the guerrilla group of the Muslim combatants from the Ilam branch of the mobilization, penetrated the enemy front and in a series of 14-hour operations, managed to destroy 2 vehicles, 2 APC, 1 water reservoir and 1 car and its occupants.

These combatants, in their successful attempt to penetrate Iraqi territory, managed to destroy one of Saddam's mercenaries' bridges in the enemy's communications area. The report states that this guerrilla group returned safely to base after carrying out its operations.

PARS, quoting the public relations department of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in Ilam, reports that in severe clashes yesterday in the Mehran region between the forces defending the Islamic revolution and the Iraqi mercenaries, the brother guards managed to destroy a mortar launcher and a large amount of the enemy's ammunition and kill a number of Saddam's mercenaries. Fortunately, in these clashes no casualties or losses were inflicted on the combative forces of Islam.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS VISIT ABADAN AREA

JN121524 Tehran Domestic Service in Surani Kurdish 1830 GMT 12 Dec 80

[Text] A PARS correspondent reports that at the same time when the Iraqi Ba'th agents allege that they have occupied Abadan and that their forces have crossed the Bahmanshir River, correspondents of international news agencies toured the fronts around Abadan, Bahmanshir and eastern Arvand Rud yesterday. The visit to the front by international television and newspaper correspondents was organized by the Supreme Defense Council's information committee. The foreign correspondents were received by the Iranian officials in Abadan.

PARS says that the Iranian officials have acquainted the correspondents with the Iraqi Ba'thist army's inhuman shelling of residential areas, hospitals, mosques and schools in southeastern Iran. The correspondents thanked the Iranian officials and said that according to the imam's orders, they did not want to be responsible for publishing anything other than factual news items and that they only want to make these facts clear to the people.

VOICE OF IRANIAN KORDESTAN 5-11 DEC PROGRAMMING

TAl11618 [Editorial Report] The clandestine Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian to Iran, from 5-11 December at 1315-1400 GMT, carried news, including reports on peshmerga military operations in the Kurdish regions, anti-Khomeyni commentaries, appeals to the people of Iranian Kordestan, and the peshmerga program which is devoted to recounting heroic deeds of martyred peshmerga fighters.

On 7 December the radio carried a mostly indistinct commentary that referred to the occupation of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and to the massive anti-U.S. demonstrations which followed, stating that "in essence many people did not agree with the act of hostage taking and such a (?confrontation) struggle. Their participation in the demonstrations and their condemnation of America was purely due to (?antagonism) toward U.S. imperialism and other imperialist countries. They did not approve of the act itself." The commentary then went on to criticize certain unnamed political parties that supported the act of hostage taking, saying that "some political groups, by unilaterally supporting this action and by disregarding its humanitarian and international implications," jumped on the bandwagon and instead of showing the people the correct methods of struggle against U.S. imperialism they merely encouraged them to shout slogans. The commentary continued: "We see that the conclusion of this struggle has reached a stage where the regime's leaders are (?calling) on America: Come, take delivery of the hostages from us. We are in need of arms and spare parts." It then concluded by stating that the interesting thing is that following months in severance of Iran-U.S. relations, it is being now suggested by some individuals that these relations be restored to the level that existed prior to the occupation of the U.S. Embassy.